

Application No.: 09/913,614
Amendment Dated: December 29, 2003
Reply to Office Action: September 26, 2003

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Remarks/Arguments:

In response to the various paragraphs of the Office Action, Applicants offer the following remarks.

Title

Applicants note that in a Preliminary Amendment, filed on August 15, 2001, a new title has been submitted. This new title is as follows:

E-MAIL PREPARATION DEVICE, TERMINAL DEVICE, INFORMATION
FORWARDING SYSTEM, METHOD AND PROGRAM RECORDING MEDIUM

Abstract

As requested, Applicants have now provided a new Abstract.

Status of Claims

Two Article 34 Amendments were filed in the USPTO on August 15, 2001, as noted in the attached postcard receipt. Applicants have now amended the claims based on the latest Article 34 Amendment, dated December 11, 2000.

The pending claims, as amended, are 2-5, 7-14, 16, 19 and 25-31. Claims 1, 6, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 have been cancelled. Claims 26-31 are newly added.

Section 102/103 Rejections

Claims 1-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as anticipated by Sakurai.

Applicants note that independent **claim 2** includes the following features, which are **not** disclosed by Sakurai, namely:

- output means of recording and holding the designated contents selected by the selection means and **directly sending the holding contents to a supply device so as to designate the operation of the supply device...**

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This is shown, for example, in Fig. 2. As shown, information output terminal 50 **directly sends** contents stored in memory 102 to external device 200 by way of connection cable 300. As also described in the specification, for example, at page 27, lines 13-18, "the data desired by the user which is found through the search **can be forwarded to the external apparatus as is** and, therefore, it is possible to carry out operations, such as reservations, registration and the like, in a simple manner".

Sakurai, on the other hand, discloses a control unit that classifies stroke data sets into categories, such as characters and figures, and stores the classification result in a database. Sakurai does **not** disclose an information output terminal that **directly sends contents** stored in its memory **to an external device, so as to designate the operation of the external device**.

Since Sakurai does not disclose the above features, it is submitted that claims 2-11 cannot be rejected under Section 102(e), and may only be rejected (arguendo) under Section 103.

Applicants respectfully submit that this Application and Sakurai, U.S. Patent No. 6,130,962 were, at the time the invention of this Application was made, owned by the same Company, namely Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd., in Osaka, Japan. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that Sakurai be removed as a reference, per 35 U.S.C. §103(c).

Applicants cite as reference the OG, dated 26 December 2000, which provides guidelines setting forth a modified policy concerning evidence of common ownership, as required by 35 USC 103(c). These guidelines are applicable to applications filed on or after November 29, 1999 where a reference available under 35 USC 102(e) is sought to be excluded (page 1). This application was filed after that date.

Claims 12-25

Claims 12-25 have been rejected as being obvious in view of Ikeda, Nikkei Click, and Nichi. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is overcome for reasons set forth below.

Applicants' invention, as recited in amended claim 12, includes features which are not anticipated or suggested by the cited references, namely:

- document data preparation and editing means of carrying out preparation and editing of document data **on an e-mail preparation screen...**
- in case that editing symbols which the document data preparation and editing means uses in order to edit the document are not at a head position of a line, **the synthesizing means starts a new line** at a position where the editing symbols exist, and synthesizes the document data and the specific added data, and
- **the added data includes an illustration, and the illustration is inserted on the left side of the e-mail preparation screen.**

Basis for amended claim 12 may be seen, for example, in Fig. 27. As shown, the left side of the display includes an e-mail preparation screen. As stated on page 71, lines 3-9, for example, when an illustration is inserted into text of an e-mail, if the cursor is not at the beginning of a line, the text, after the cursor, is moved to a new line position and the illustration is inserted at a previous position of the cursor. This is also shown, for example, in Figs. 32(a)-(b), where the illustration is inserted at the beginning of a new line, or **at the left side of the e-mail preparation screen.**

Ikeda discloses a pictograph illustration that includes image data synthesized with text data. Ikeda, however, does **not** disclose the feature of amended claim 12 that the **illustration is inserted at the left side of the e-mail preparation screen.**

Nikkei Click discloses an e-mail preparation device that includes text of more than two lines and columns. Nikkei Click, however, does **not** suggest inserting image data or illustration data. Furthermore, Nikkei Click does **not suggest inserting an illustration on the left side of the e-mail preparation screen.**

Nichi discloses an e-mail preparation screen. Nichi, however, does **not** disclose **inserting an illustration on the left side of the e-mail preparation screen.**

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Favorable reconsideration is requested for amended claim 12. Although not the same, newly added claims 26 and 27 include features that are similar to amended claim 12. Claims 26 and 27, therefore, are not subject to rejection in view of the cited references for the same reasons set forth for amended claim 12.

Claims 13, 14, and 16 depend from amended claim 12. Claim 19 depends from newly added claim 26, and claim 25 depends from amended claim 12 or newly added claim 26. Claims 28-29 depend from newly added claims 26 and 27 or amended claim 12. These claims, therefore, are not subject to rejection in view of the cited references for at least the same reasons set forth for amended claim 12.

Newly Added Claims 30-31

Newly added **claim 30** includes the following features:

- (a) storing a plurality of illustrations in the data base;
- (b) providing a plurality of **attributions** . . .
- (c) assigning each of the illustrations to at least one of the attributions;
- (d) assigning an **attribution value** to each of the illustrations . . .
- (e) **inputting . . . an attribution and an attribution value . . .**
- (f) searching the data base in response to step (e); and
- (g) **outputting . . . at least one illustration from the data base, based on the attribution and attribution value . . .**

Basis for newly added claim 30 may be seen, for example, in Figs. 38-40. As shown in Fig. 38, e-mail preparation device 13000 includes storage of an "illustration feeling" and an "attribution value". As shown in Fig. 39, the user may input an "illustration feeling", such as "pretty" (feature 1410). The user may then obtain on a display the various illustration

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candidates, as shown, which have a feeling of or an **attribution** of "pretty." As further shown in Fig. 40(a), the attribution "pretty" has various **attribution values**, varying between 0 and 1.0. The higher the number, the greater the degree of that attribution.

Claim 31 further limits claim 30 by reciting:

- step (b) includes providing attributions including **at least one of "pretty" and "funny";** and
- step (d) includes **assigning a value with a predetermined range for each of the illustrations.**

An attribution of "pretty" is shown, for example, in Fig. 39 and includes an attribution value of approximately 0.3, as shown in Fig. 40(a).

These features, as recited in newly added claims 30-31, are not suggested or disclosed by any of the cited references. Favorable consideration is requested for claims 30-31.

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Conclusion

Claims 2-5, 7-14, 16, 19, 25-31 are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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JJJ/dlm/fp/ds

Attachments: Abstract
Postcard Receipt

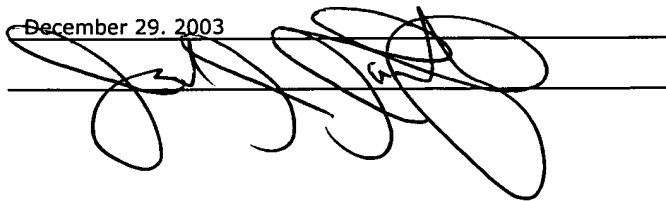
Dated: December 29, 2003

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ABSTRACT

An information forwarding system and method including an information input device for inputting search conditions; a data base; a search device for searching the data base based on the search conditions so as to gain search results; an information display for displaying the search results; a selector for selecting one, or more, search results from among the search results; and an output device for sending the designated contents selected by the selector to a supply device so as to designate the operation of the supply device.